schemes of Government of India. The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) has been supportive of efforts at formation of export consortia of SSIs.

Cooperation between India and Thailand in the field of space

†2051. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Thailand are considering to have cooperation in the field of space;

(b) if so, the whether Government have taken any action so far in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Agreement has been signed on February 1, 2002 between the Government of India and the Government of Thailand on cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. This is an umbrella Agreement under which specific cooperative activities could be carried out depending on mutual interest.

Study of data sent by TERRA

2052. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US satellite TERRA launched in last December under an international programme named Global Land Ice Management from Space (GLIMS) has started sending data on the Himalayan Glaciers, feeding Ganges, Brahmaputra and Indus rivers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what arrangements have been made for studying the data and the main objectives of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The United States (US) has acquired data from its TERRA satellite over different parts of the world. The Advanced Space Borne Thermal Emission and reflection Radiometer (ASTER) instrument on board the TERRA is being used to monitor the world's glaciers under the GLIMS (Global Land Ice Management from Space) programme. ASTER data has been acquired by the US for most of the ice and Glacier regions of the world including the Himalayan region. In India, the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi is a Regional Centre for the GLIMS programme and obtains TERRA/ ASTER data from the US. The data is available to registered research project teams to study the aerial extent of glaciers, location of snow line, velocity fields and location of terminus of glaciers.

Report on Mission to Moon

2053. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national panel of experts looking into various aspect of Mission to Moon has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the report; and

(c) how the mission to moon would help the common man and the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposed mission to moon is expected to provide an impetus to the advancement of science in India and a challenge to technologists. The mission can serve as a test bed for future missions that could be undertaken by India to explore the outer world in the